Steps to encourage adoption of orphan children

3759. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps taken or proposed by Government to encourage adoption of orphan children; and

(b the steps taken to conduct awareness campaign as well as sensitisation programmes for all matters pertaining to adoption ?

THE MWISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Ministry has a Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to Promote In-Country Adoption, under which 34 such homes as on date provide care and maintenance for destitute and orphan children as a pre-placement facility. The Scheme has been extended to State run Shishu Grehas from the current financial year so that orphans in such institutions can also benefit. The Revised Guidelines for Adoption of Indian Children were issued in 1995 for facilitating adoptions in a systematic manner. Further adoption has also been included as one of the rehabilitation measures for orphaned, abandoned, neglected and abused children in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.

(b)The Ministry is conducting a number of sensitization and awareness generation programmes pertaining to adoption at regional and national levels. Awareness campaign by means of documentaries and films has also been undertaken by the Ministry from time to time.

Affidavit by Government in SC regarding poverty deaths

3760. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have submitted any affidavit in the Supreme Court regarding the reported 'Poverty deaths';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding such deaths in the recent past; and

(d) the details of the relief given to the poverty-affected section as a result of natural calamities reported from the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sale of poverty-stricken Bhil women in Rajasthan

3761. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-item captioned 'Distress sale of poverty-stricken Bhil women, which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 29th June, 2001 ;

(b) if so, whether her Ministry has ascertained factual position regarding sale of Bhil women in Bhil-inhabited areas of Rajasthan, prarticularly in Udaipur Division;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have called for or received factual details about state of affairs in poverty-stricken and drought-prone areas of Rajasthan from Rajasthan Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by her Ministry to alleviate condition of Bhil-inhabited areas of Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c)According to the State Government the news is untrue and baseless.

(d) to (f) A number of schemes are being run for the upliftment of economic and educational conditions of tribal Bhiis of Udaipur division, such as